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cannot be urged in support of its eolian origin on this side of the Atlantic. Where the loess of the United States is typically developed, and has any considerable thickness, its iron content is not often thoroughly oxidized below a depth of four to six feet. The same is true of the loess of some parts of Germany. So, too, it may be much more troublesome to account for the presence of even a few aquatic shells in an eolian deposit, than for the presence of many land shells in a water deposit. The frequent inter-stratification of loess and sand at the base of the formation, the occasional presence in the loess of stone quite beyond the power of wind to transport, its general habit of following river courses, the presence of aquatic shells, and its lack of oxidation and leeching except for a short distance from the surface, are considerations of sufficient weight to make it very doubtful if the larger part of the American loess can be due to the wind. On the other hand, we believe that some (quantitatively a small part) of the loess of the United States is unquestionably of eolian origin. It has long seemed possible to the writer that formations may have been grouped together under this name which have had very different origins at very different times. This notion is emphasized in the volume before us, where the adobe of the United States, two or three thousand feet thick, is referred to as the loess, though this is not the formation commonly known as loess, and can hardly be one with it in origin. Many new facts are given concerning glaciation in regions where the work of the ice has not, until recently, been known.

The incorporation of the great body of new facts and suggestions throughout the volume has meant the digestion of a large body of recent literature. Indeed, there appears to have been very little geological literature produced since the earlier edition of the work of which the author has not made use, and to which we do not find explicit reference in the new edition.

ROLLIN D. SALISBURY.

Bodengestaltende Wirkungen der Eiszeit. Vortrag von DR. AUG. BÖHM, *Privatdocent an der k. k. technischen Hochschule,* Vienna.

The difficulty of finding satisfactory summaries of the physical features of European countries makes such essays as the above especially welcome to the American student, particularly if he contemplates a trip abroad. The essay is one of a series of lectures, published by the *Verein zur Verbreitung naturwissenschaftlicher Kenntnisse* in Vienna, now in its thirty-third year. The essays may be had separately, and a table of contents of the thirty odd volumes may be procured from the publisher, Hölzel, for a nominal price; from this one may select such numbers as he wishes. Recent volumes contain articles by Suess, *Ueber die Structur Europas*, from which the geological traveler may gain a breadth of view that will greatly profit him; by Penk, on *Das Oesterreichische Alpenvorland*, and *Die Donau* (Danube), from which more local views may be gathered of equal value in closer studies. Dr. Böhm's essay is a well-argued presentation of the belief that even the greater Swiss lakes, as well as nearly all the smaller ones, are the result of glacial erosion. He justly emphasizes the moderate proportion of depth to length in even the deepest of the marginal lakes; and the location of these lakes with respect to the greater glacier which formerly emerged from the Alpine valleys on the Piedmont districts. Even in those valleys where no marginal lakes now exist, as in the valleys of the Lech, Inn, Salzach, and others, rivers emerging from the north-eastern Alps, there have recently been lakes, but their basins are now filled and drained by the active streams that traverse them. The high level lakes, held in rock basins and enclosed by mountain cirques (Karen), are with even more confidence ascribed to glacial action. Many of the smaller lakes have been extinguished already since the glacial period. In the Tyrol, no less than 118 lakes recorded on the maps of the last century, are now drained. In this relation, the Alpine valleys seemed to have advanced further towards recovery from the glacial accident to which they have been subjected than the Norwegian streams; for in Norway, many a river is still only a string of lakes. It is notable that drumlins are not mentioned by Dr. Böhm as characteristic products of glacial action; hence we must infer that they are seldom seen in Continental Europe. WM. M. DAVIS.